

AHS Table Creator Help

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Create a simple table [back to top](#)

- NOTE: You can create a table by selecting an Area, Year and a Table, while using the default selections for all other sections of the form.
- To create a table that shows plumbing characteristics at the national level of geography from the 2013 AHS:
 - Select "National" from the Area selection box.
 - Select "2013" from the Year selection box.
 - Select "Plumbing, Water, and Sewage Disposal" from the Table selection box.
 - Press the "Get Table" button at the bottom of the form.
 - This creates the table below. NOTE: The table below is just an excerpt for demonstration purposes. The actual table has many more rows.

2013 National - Plumbing, Water, and Sewage Disposal - All Occupied Units

[Numbers in thousands, except as indicated. Weighting consistent with Census 2010. Blank cells represent or round to zero; '.' represents not applicable or no cases in sample.]

[See Appendix A for definitions](#)

Characteristics	National
Total	115852
Primary Source of Water	
Public or private system	102264
Well serving 1 to 5 units	13232
Drilled	12076
Dug	765
Not reported	392
Other	355

Create a table with column variables [back to top](#)

- NOTE: If you previously created the first example table, then use the “Reset” button in the tool to reset the form. The steps below presume you have not created the previous example table.
- To create a table that shows plumbing characteristics at the national level of geography by urban area from the 2013 AHS:
 - Select "National" from the Area selection box.
 - Select “2013” from the Year selection box.
 - Select "Plumbing, Water, and Sewage Disposal" from Table selection box.
 - Under Column Variables, select "2010 Urban Area" (under the Geography heading) from the Variable 1 selection box.
 - Press the "Get Table" button at the bottom of the form.
 - This creates the table below. NOTE: The table below is just an excerpt for demonstration purposes. The actual table has many more rows.
 - NOTE: The column variable you selected appears below the table title (seen in red in the example below).

2013 National - Plumbing, Water, and Sewage Disposal - All Occupied Units

Variable 1: 2010 Urban Area, Variable 2: None

[Numbers in thousands, except as indicated. Weighting consistent with Census 2010. Blank cells represent or round to zero; '.' represents not applicable or no cases in sample.]

[See Appendix A for definitions](#)

Characteristics	2010 Urban Area			
	Total	Urbanized Area	Urban Cluster	Rural
Total	115852	81641	11059	23152
Primary Source of Water				
Public or private system	102264	79173	10328	12763
Well serving 1 to 5 units	13232	2409	717	10106
Drilled	12076	2197	673	9206
Dug	765	106	25	634
Not reported	392	106	19	267
Other	355	59	14	282

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- To create a table that nests the previously created Plumbing, Water, and Sewage Disposal by Tenure and by Hispanic origin:
 - NOTE: If you previously created either of the other example tables, then use the "Reset" button in the tool to reset the form. The steps below presume you have not created the previous example table.
 - Select "National" from the Area selection box.
 - Select "2013" from the Year selection box.
 - Select "Plumbing, Water, and Sewage Disposal" from the Table selection box.
 - Under Column Variables, select "Tenure" (under the General heading) from the Variable 1 selection box.
 - Under Column Variables, select "Hispanic Origin of Householder" (under the Demographics heading) from the Variable 2 selection box.
 - Press the "Get Table" button at the bottom of the form.
 - This creates the table below -- notice that the counts of "Hispanic Origin of Householder" are nested within each value of "Tenure." NOTE: The table below is just an excerpt for demonstration purposes. The actual table has many more columns and rows.
 - NOTE: The column variable you selected appears below the table title (seen in red in the example below).

2013 National - Plumbing, Water, and Sewage Disposal - All Occupied Units


Variable 1: Tenure, Variable 2: Hispanic Origin of Householder

[Numbers in thousands, except as indicated. Weighting consistent with Census 2010. Blank cells represent or round to zero; '.' represents not applicable or no cases in sample.]

[See Appendix A for definitions](#)

Characteristics	Tenure						
	Total			Owner			Renter
	Hispanic Origin of Householder			Hispanic Origin of Householder			Hispanic Origin of Householder
	Total	Hispanic*	Not Hispanic	Total	Hispanic*	Not Hispanic	Total
Total	115852	14675	101176	75650	6897	68753	40201
Primary Source of Water							
Public or private system	102264	14085	88179	63799	6437	57362	38465
Well serving 1 to 5 units	13232	561	12671	11592	448	11144	1640
Drilled	12076	498	11578	10679	403	10277	1396
Dug	765	36	728	657	32	625	107
Not reported	392	27	365	255	13	242	137
Other	355	28	327	259	12	247	97

[Downloading](#) [back to top](#)

HTML is the default download option. You can also download tables in Excel. Click the  (down arrow) on the top-right tool bar and choose the Excel option. A box may pop up asking you what software you would like to use to open the file. Microsoft Excel should be the default. Click “Okay” or “Open,” depending on what browser you are using. In some browsers, you may get the following message: “The file you are trying to open is in a different format than specified by the file extension. Verify that the file is not corrupted and is from a trusted source before opening the file. Do you want to open the file now?” Click “Yes.”

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Blank cells represent values that amount to less than half the unit of measurement shown (e.g. less than 500 housing units, except in median rows where another unit may be indicated). Medians that appear in PDF, Excel, and American FactFinder with decimal places are rounded to the nearest whole number in Table Creator (e.g. current interest rate). Medians where “Year” is the unit of measurement are formatted with a comma and, in some cases, a decimal. (e.g. 1,997 represents the year 1997 in National tables and 1,997.0 represents the year 1997 in Metro tables).

[Missing values](#) [back to top](#)

When there are no records for a particular cell, the software will place a ‘.’ in the cell. A ‘.’ is the result of one of the following scenarios: 1.) there were no housing units in the sample that met those conditions, or 2.) you are trying to cross tabulate two variables that do not share the same universe (the figure is not applicable because the column heading and stub line yield impossible, absurd, or meaningless results).

Note that if a valid column (or row) has no records for all rows (or columns), the column (or row) will NOT appear in the table at all. It will NOT be listed with the missing values symbol for all rows (or columns). For example, if tenure is selected as a column variable and then owner is selected from the Tenure filter, the renter column will not display. If you get an entire table with nothing in it, it likely means that you chose a table and variable or filter combination with all invalid values. E.g. If you select the Mortgage Characteristics table and then choose Tenure as your filter, you’ll see that the Renter column is all dots because renters cannot have a mortgage. Furthermore, if you then filter the table by Renters, the resulting table will be blank.

[Row and Column Variable Ranges](#) [back to top](#)

Variables involving ranges are pre-defined and cannot be customized. For example, square footage ranges are ‘Less than 500,’ ‘500 to 749,’ etc. and cannot be changed. Ranges can only be manipulated using the Public Use File.

[Geography](#) [back to top](#)

Detailed information about the geographic indicators and geographic disclosure in the AHS samples from 1985 through 2013.

[About the American Housing Survey](#) [back to top](#)

Click on the link above to find information about the purpose, sponsoring agency, frequency, historical background, topical coverage, and methodology of the Survey.

[Technical Documentation](#) [back to top](#)

Click on the link above to access Appendices of the Summary Report for each survey year. Appendices include:

Definitions – Appendix A provides definitions and explanations of table stub titles (row headings in bold) and column headings.

Sample Design and Weighting – Appendix B provides information on how housing units were selected to be part of the sample and how each housing unit in the sample is weighted.

Historical Changes – Appendix C is a complete list of changes to the questionnaire and to the tables that have occurred since the previous survey.

Errors – Appendix D includes descriptions of the types of sampling and nonsampling errors and provides formulas for constructing confidence intervals.

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Try the AHS microdata. The microdata, (a.k.a. Public Use File) are files containing individual household responses to the survey questions, which can be used to generate custom tables. Data can be downloaded in SAS and ASCII formats. To get to the microdata, click on the [AHS Data page](#), select a year tab at the top, then click on “Public Use File (PUF)”.